

## Message Text

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70

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-02 FRB-03 OMB-01

TAR-01 SP-02 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-01 TRSE-00

CIEP-01 CEA-01 NSC-05 SS-15 EA-06 NEA-09 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 FEA-01 /122 W

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R 191542Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4849

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 1452

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNCTAD, EGEN, ETRD, AU

SUBJECT: DAKAR CONFERENCE ON COMMODITIES

REF: A. STATE 29167; B. STOCKHOLM 717

SUMMARY: GOA OFFICIAL DESCRIBES DAKAR CONFERENCE AS EXERCISE IN CONFRONTATIONAL RHETORIC AND POLEMICS COMPLETELY DOMINATED BY ALGERIANS. AUSTRIANS EXPECT MORE OF THE SAME IN FUTURE GATHERINGS OF THIS KIND, ALTHOUGH THEY BELIEVE ALGERIANS MAY HAVE OVERPLAYED THEIR HAND AND PROVOKED RESENTMENT AND SECOND THOUGHTS AMONG MANY LDC'S END  
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SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF REVIEWED DAKAR CONFERENCE WITH AMBASSADOR BACKES, CHIEF OF COMMODITY SECTION IN FOREIGN MINISTRY, FEB 18. BACKES HAD JUST RECEIVED REPORT FROM AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR IN DAKAR WHO HAD ATTENDED AS QUOTE INVITED GUEST UNQUOTE. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF AMBASSADOR'S OBSERVATIONS.

2. THERE WAS DISAPPOINTMENT AT CONFERENCE THAT OF SOME 110 COUNTRIES INVITED, ONLY ABOUT 67 ACTUALLY ATTENDED. LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION ALSO DISAPPOINTINGLY LOW. MOST DELEGATIONS WERE SMALL AND ONLY COUNTRY REPRESENTED AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL WAS ALGERIA. ALGERIAN DELEGATION ABLY LED BY MINISTER OF COMMERCE YAKER. ALGERIANS COMPLETELY DOMINATED CONFERENCE WITH LARGE DELEGATION OF ABOUT 18 PEOPLE WHICH CAME WELL PREPARED AND STEAMROLLED RESOLUTIONS THROUGH. IN MANY CASES, DELEGATES DID NOT EVEN GET OPPORTUNITY TO READ THE RESOLUTIONS DRAFTED IN LATE NIGHT SESSIONS AND THEN PASSED LARGELY BY ACCLAMATION. ALGERIANS' HIGH-HANDED PRESSURE TACTICS PROVOKED RESENTMENT AND SECOND THOUGHTS AMONG MANY PARTICIPANTS WHICH MAY MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR ALGERIANS TO DOMINATE SIMILAR GATHERINGS IN FUTURE.

3. SOME DELEGATIONS EMBITTERED BY ATTITUDE OF OPEC PARTICIPANTS. CONFERENCE HAD UNANIMOUSLY EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO ANY KIND OF AGGRESSION, MILITARY OR ECONOMIC, AGAINST OIL PRODUCING STATES. IN RETURN, NON-OPEC PARTICIPANTS EXPECTED STRONG SUPPORT FROM OPEC STATES FOR FUND TO FINANCE BUFFER STOCKS FOR COMMODITIES. RESOLUTION PASSED BY CONFERENCE ON THIS SUBJECT WAS LUKEWARM AND DEVOID OF ANY REAL COMMITMENT BY OPEC STATES TO CONTRIBUTE TO FUND. IVORY COAST, PHILIPPINES, SENEGAL AND MALAYSIA MADE SEPARATE STATEMENTS AT CONFERENCE COMPLAINING BITTERLY ABOUT OPEC COUNTRIES' ATTITUDE.

4. MAJOR TOPICS AT CONFERENCE WERE PRODUCER ASSOCIATIONS, INDEXATION, AND NEED TO TRANSFORM WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER IN FAVOR OF LDC'S. BACKES WAS SURE GENERAL AT-CONFIDENTIAL

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MOSPHERE OF DKAAR MEETING WOULD BE REFLECTED IN FORTHCOMING MEETINGS DEALING WITH COMMODITIES, AND IN SPECIAL SESSION OF UNGA IN SEPTEMBER. AUSTRIANS SEE LITTLE HOPE THAT DC'S ARE GOING TO LESSEN THEIR PENCHANT FOR STEAMROLLING THEIR POSITIONS OR ENGAGING IN POLEMICS IN UNGA OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA. IN SHORT, BOTH AS REGARDS THE ATMOSPHERE AND SUBSTANCE OF DAKAR MEETING, AUSTRIANS SEE MORE OF SAME IN SIMILAR FUTURE

GATHERINGS. CALLS FOR PRODUCER ASSOCIATIONS FOR  
WIDE VARIETY OF COMMODITIES AS WELL AS INDEXATION  
BOUND TO GATHER MOMENTUM IN AUSTRIAN VIEW.

5. COMMENT: BACKES MADE NO ATTEMPT TO GLOSS  
OVER CONFRONTATIONAL NATURE AND TONE OF DAKAR CON-  
FERENCE OR TO DESCRIBE IT AS USEFUL AS  
SWEDES HAVE DONE (REF B.). AUSTRIAN ATTITUDE APPEARS TO  
BE ONE OF RESIGNATION TO BUT NO ENTHUSIASM FOR INCREASED  
LDC POLEMICS IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES OF THIS KIND.  
HUMES

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMMODITIES, LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, MEETING PROCEEDINGS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE  
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